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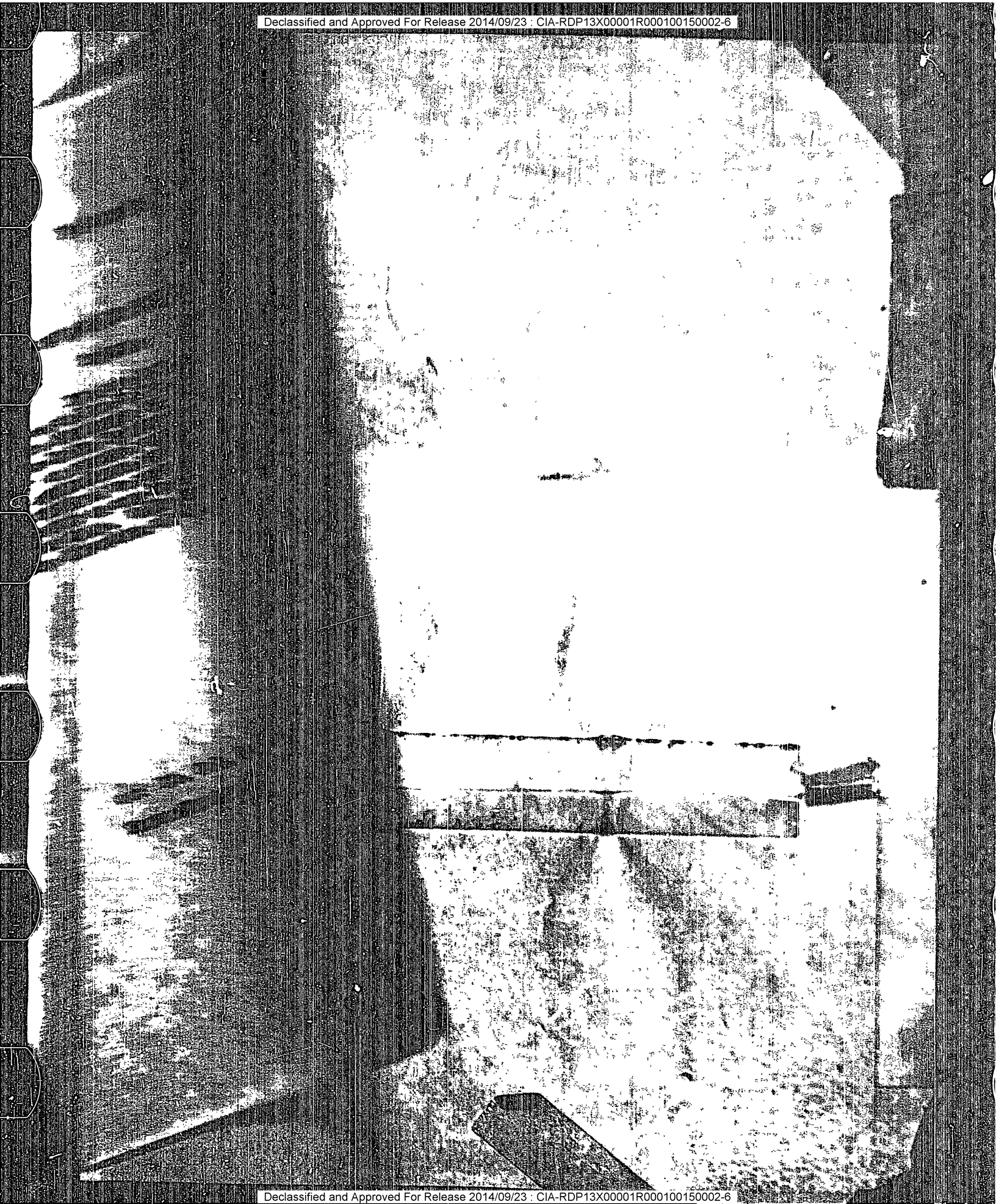

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SECRET

(39)

30 November 1943

MEMORANDUM TO MAJOR FRANK FAIRMAN

Subject: Orders

You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to New Delhi, India, where you will report to the Strategic Services Officer for the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations for temporary duty as general supervisor and coordinator for all communications problems in that theater. You are authorized to proceed to such other places in the theater as may be necessary to the performance of your duty. While in the theater, you will act under the direction of the Strategic Services Officer.

W. Edward Buxton
Acting Director

cc: Lt. Col. Richard P. Heppner

SECRET

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

CONFIDENTIAL

INTEROFFICE MEMO

RECEIVED
25 OCT 1943
SECRETARIAT
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE
340ct 25

Ensign Putnell

DATE October 24, 1943

Lt. Colonel Lowman

Major Falkner for the Far East

Re your October 20th memorandum giving the General's approval, I think it would be most helpful if the General would agree that Major Falkner be given a letter setting forth his status, so that there won't be any confusion about his position.

In order for him to function properly where our activities are so varied and so wide, I assume that he ought to be set up in the same status in practice that I was in theory on my recent trip.

In other words, if Major Falkner is in New Delhi, he should report to Colonel Heppner. If he is with Eifler, he should be responsible to Eifler. If, theoretically, he is in Chungking, and Judge Allman should be in charge of OSS operations in Chungking, he would report to Judge Allman.

This would follow a straight line for the man whom the Communications Branch head is under in each theater. See attached for the General's signature.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(October 13, 1944)

Lt. Colonel Richard Heppner
G-3 Section
USAFCBI, Rear Echelon Hdqtrs.
New Delhi, India

Dear Colonel Heppner:

Colonel Lowman has been looking for a communications officer who could take over the responsibility of acting as general supervisor and coordinator for all communications problems in the Far East. He is Major Frank Falknor, the bearer of this letter.

With the burden of OSS communications in the various Far Eastern theaters, Major Falknor will be responsible to you, for example, in New Delhi. As it will be necessary for him to help coordinate communications activities for Colonel Eifler, he will be responsible to Colonel Eifler while under his command. The same would be true for operations extending to China.

Major Falknor is one of the best rounded communications men in this country, and we feel certain that he will be of inestimable value.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan,
Director

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20 December 44

Colonel Bigelow

General Donovan has approved the attached letter, prepared for your signature, to Mrs. Parish concerning the extent to which she can discuss her husband's death.

C. A. Dano
Lt., USNR
Chief, Secretariat

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SECRETARIAT

1944 DEC 16 PM 5 54

093

20 December 1944

Mrs. Linn H. Parish
600 College Street
Woodland, California

Dear Mrs. Parish:

I have your letter of the second, and I have asked whether there is any reason why you should not speak openly about your husband's decoration or about the circumstances of the accident.

The letters were classified "Confidential" because they revealed Linn's connection with OSS. We think that that fact should not be disclosed, but aside from that you may certainly discuss your husband's decoration and the circumstances surrounding his death. It was very conscientious of you to ask our advice on this point before giving any information about him.

We have not been informed definitely of when the presentation of the Distinguished Service Cross will be made, but I am told that the Adjutant General's Office will notify you about the arrangements. If not, we shall most certainly pass on any information which we acquire.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Bigelow

CAB/ca

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : General [illegible]

FROM : The Secretariat

DATE : December 16, 1948

SUBJECT:

Attached is a letter from Mrs. Parish to Colonel Iglehow asking whether she may talk about her husband's decoration and matters in view of the fact that some letter to her "applaudatory" letters from [illegible] appear. Lt. Col. Prouty, and General [illegible] stamped "Confidential".

The letters that were sent to Mrs. Parish contained essentially the same ground as the published newspaper account of Major Parish's activities, except that the newspaper report did not make any reference to the fact that Major Parish was connected with [illegible]. Accordingly we have drafted the attached letter for Colonel Iglehow's signature approving discussion of the decoration and Major Parish's activities. If you feel that Mrs. Parish may speak of her husband's connection with [illegible], we will redraft the letter in that sense.

C A Bane
C. A. Bane

OK
D.

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OSS Form 4041

OSS SECRETARIAT - ROUTE SLIP

Date 12/11/44

To	Name	Initials
	O. C. Doering, Jr.	
	C. A. Hane	
	J. R. Donovan	
	D. C. Lee	
	O. S. Platt	
✓	P. P. Pugliese	
	R. J. Putzell, Jr.	
	A. W. Sullivan	
	R. Thrun	
	Files	

(Remarks) For your information.

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Date 1/1/44

Lt. Bane

Possibly Pete might look into this. However, if O'Gara has started to function in this field, his views should be secured. Jim Donovan might be able to contribute some information on what we do financially for the families, but this would be applicable mainly, if not entirely, in connection with civilians.

The ultimate question may be whether we provide adequate assistance to let families know what their rights in connection with insurance, pensions and the like.

RT
RT

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the Executive Officer

(30449)

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Book 9

Please see if
we have done everything
we should do.

— — —

Should we run
examine in the
document station?
If not, please
proceed.

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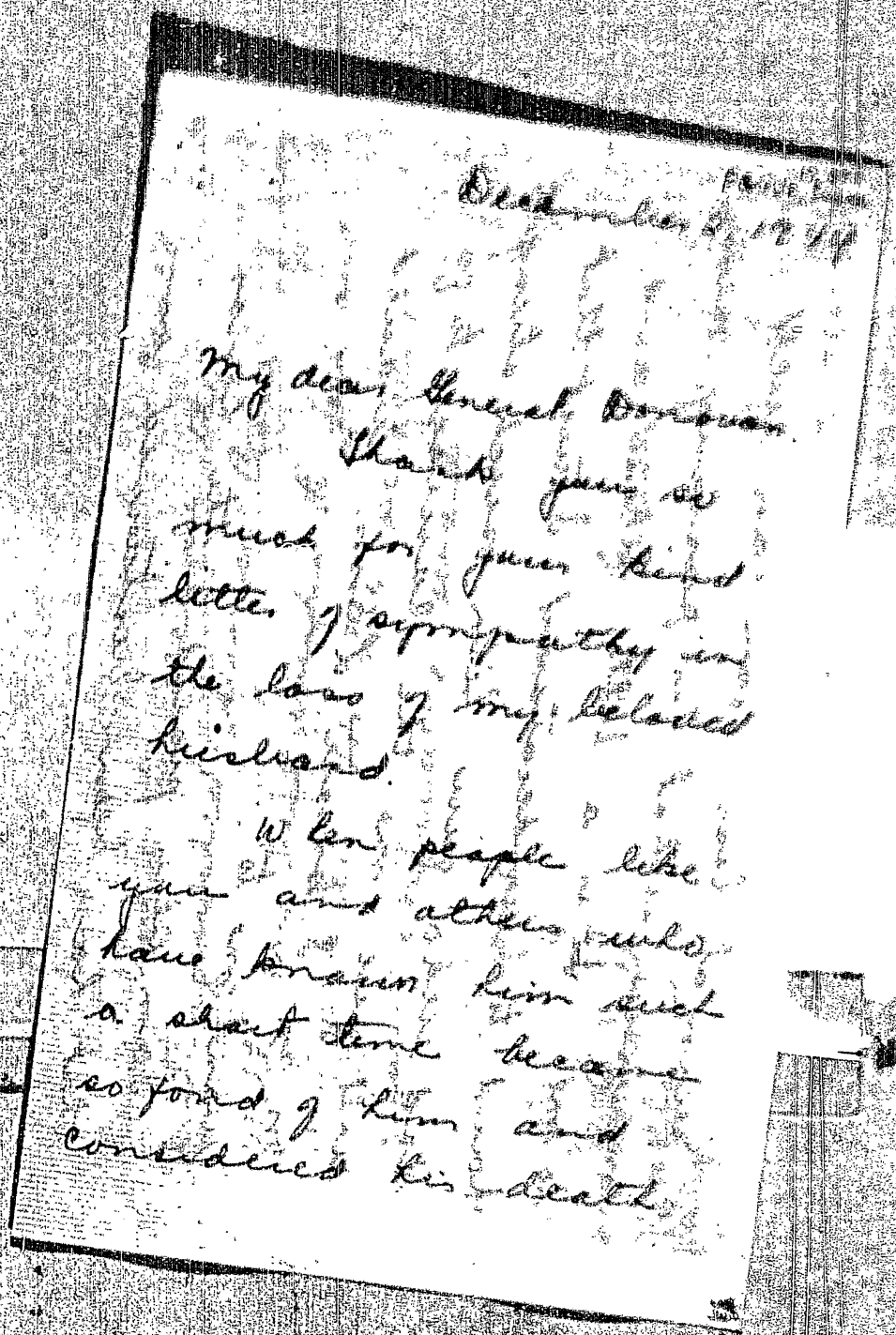

December 8, 1944

My dear General Donovan

Thank you so much for your kind letter. I appreciate the loss of my beloved husband.

When people like you and others could have known him such a short time became so fond of him and considered his death

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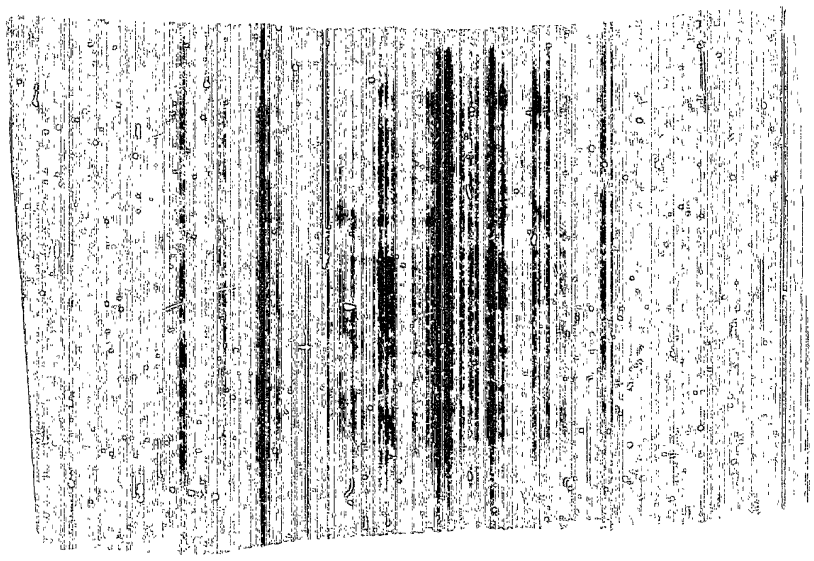

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RETURN RECEIPT

Date of Delivery

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Declassified and Approved For Release 2014/09/23 : CIA-RDP13X00001R000100150002-6

[illegible] personal regret that
[illegible] Major [illegible]
[illegible] loss of also
[illegible] [illegible]ently, fire-
lord [illegible] by very [illegible] [illegible] would
not qualify. [illegible] like this
and this [illegible]. [illegible] and skill, under such
circumstances [illegible] that he will always be remember-
ed by the men who served with him.

I am enclosing a copy of letter of commenda-
tion by Major General [illegible], Commanding General of the
Fifteenth Air Force [illegible] to only a small extent
some of his activities on [illegible] his country.

Although I [illegible] this tribute honors
cannot assuage your grief, Major [illegible]'s award of the
Distinguished Service Cross on 5 November 1944, shows
how highly he was regarded by his country.

Please allow me to extend my deepest
sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Donovan
Director

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...mmanding General
...

...9 June 1944

...rvices

...on M. Farlan, ...

...from 15 April to 15 June 1944
...the Fifteenth Air Force

...pied territory on 15 April 1944.
...and administering to thirteen
...and evaded capture by the enemy
...easily to get these men together.
...were ...suitable landing strips for air
...contact with Force 399 and Headquarters SSU, and
...ed the party to Italy on 16 June 1944.

...ation, perseverance, bravery and coolness
...asting respect and admiration of the
...successfully brought out of enemy
...n brought back by you has been of
...th Air Force and your achievements are
...and Forces of the United States.

...you and to...

I wish to personally commend you and to express my appreciation ...service you have rendered the Fifteenth Air Force.

N. F. TWINING
Major General, USA
Commanding

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CONFIDENTIAL

AAFX

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
A. P. O. 520

29 June 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

THROUGH: Commanding Officer, Strategic Bulkan Services

TO : Lieutenant Colonel Linn H. Farish, O-[redacted]

1. It has come to my attention that from 15 April to 16 June 1944 rendered extremely valuable services to the Fifteenth Air Force.

2. After parachuting into enemy occupied territory on 15 April 1944, you spent the next two months collecting and administering to thirteen Fifteenth Air Force officers and men who had evaded capture by the enemy. At great personal risk, you worked tirelessly to get these men together, take care of those who were ill, select suitable landing strips for air evacuation, maintain contact with Force 399 and Headquarters MAAF, and finally successfully evacuated the party to Italy on 16 June 1944.

3. Your leadership, determination, perseverance, bravery and confidence in the face of danger have won the lasting respect and admiration of the thirteen officers and men that you successfully brought out of enemy territory with you. The information brought back by you has been of considerable value to the Fifteenth Air Force and your achievements are a credit to you and to the Armed Forces of the United States.

4. I wish to personally commend you and to express my appreciation for the service you have rendered the Fifteenth Air Force.

[redacted]
Major General, USA
Commanding

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10 Nov. 1944

Mr. Edward L. Bigelow

CONFIDENTIAL

Here are originals of the Parish letters of condolence and recommendation which I talked to Jim about on the telephone. Bob Thrun suggested that if the General hasn't already written a personal letter to Mrs. Parish, you might prepare one for his signature to go along with this. I am sending copies of these letters to Thrun, who will show them to the General.

Edward R. Dodd Jr.
Mediterranean Theater Officer

✓ Mr. Thrun

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HEADQUARTERS
CO. D, 2677th REGT. OSS (Prov.)
APO 534

12 September 1944

SUBJECT: Letter to Mrs. Linn M. Farish

TO: The Director, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C. Attention: Chief, SO Branch

THRU: Commanding Officer, 2677th Regiment, OSS (Prov.), APO 534

1. Will you please forward my letter to Mrs. Farish together with the original of Lt. Colonel Lord Harcourt's letter of condolence.

2. Duplicate copies of these letters are enclosed for Washington, and it is requested that one set be forwarded to the War Department for Major Farish's file.

3. Duplicate copies are enclosed for regimental headquarters. It is suggested that one set of these letters be made a part of the file that is forwarded with the recommendation for citation for Major Farish.

4. For the information of Washington, Major Farish has been recommended for some time back for a promotion, which is exceedingly well deserved and long overdue. It is hoped that it may be possible to approve this promotion posthumously. He has also been recommended for the highest possible decoration and it is hoped that this can also be granted.

EDWARD J. GREEN,
Lt. Comdr., USNR,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY B, 2677TH REGIMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROV.)
APO 534, U. S. ARMY

15 September 1944

Mrs. L. M. Farish
546 - 74th St.
Jackson Heights, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Farish:

Air Vice Marshal Elliott called personally to break the news about Linn and Lt. Col. Lord Harcourt brought a copy of the brief radio message with the few available details about the crash.

It was an operational flight into the Balkans on the night of 9 September; the plane, a C-47, reached the pinpoint and made one run dropping supplies among the signal fires. It was circling slowly to return for the jumps when the motors went dead -- perhaps ignition trouble or a stall. The crew threw out everything to flare but there was not enough altitude to maneuver and the plane crashed into the mountainside and burst into flame -- all aboard were lost.

The inclosed letter from Lord Harcourt expresses far better than I can the very high esteem in which Linn was held by British, Partisans, and Americans alike. He was the most outstanding American representative in the Balkans and his name has assumed almost legendary proportions with a million Jugoslavs by whom he was greatly loved and respected.

The pioneer work he did in locating and developing landing fields and perfecting escape technique was responsible for the evacuation of hundred of American airmen. His unselfish devotion to duty and his enthusiastic willingness to undertake any task, no matter how great or small as long as it helped others, were a great challenge to all his associates.

It is true that Linn is gone, but his work lives on and his indomitable spirit will continue to be a constant inspiration to his countless friends as we try our best to finish the job he started so gloriously. Our hearts go out to you as we extend sympathy and condolence in your great loss.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. GREEN,
Lt. Comdr., USNR,
Commanding.

Mail at above address,
please forward to:
Main St.
Inland, Calif.

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HEADQUARTERS
[illegible] BOMBARDMENT
PATHFINDER SQUADRON
15th U. S. ARMY

[illegible] September 1944

[illegible]ecently in Greece
[illegible]-raid brought a
[illegible]ew available details

[illegible] flight into the Balkans on the
[illegible]9, a B-17, reached the objective
[illegible]ities among the flak fires. It
[illegible]rew for the jump when the bomber sank
[illegible]ed under a stal... The crew bailed out
[illegible] at enough altitude to descend
[illegible]ir chutes and burst into flame

[illegible] Lord Harcourt expressed for
very high esteem in which Tito was held by
[illegible] Americans alike. He was the most pain-
[illegible]sentative in the Balkans and his name has
[illegible] proportions with a million Jugoslavs by
[illegible]d respected.

[illegible]ting and developing
[illegible] technique was responsible
[illegible] airmen. His unselfish
[illegible] willingness to assist
[illegible] as long as it helped others,
[illegible] his associates.

[illegible]Lee is gone, but his work lives on
[illegible] will continue to be a beacon
[illegible]as we carry our bombs to Nazi
[illegible]. Our hearts go out to [illegible]
[illegible]t less.

EDWARD J. [illegible],
Lt. Comdr., USNR,
Commanding.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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...tely lost his life, together
...es was probably the
...performed in the last
...time will be hard to

...Officers of this Force
...his family and friends.

s/ Harcourt
...al
(HA...T)
...

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C

H.Q. [illegible] Gp.
C.M.F.

11 May 44.

.O.
Coy. 2nd 207th Regt
S.S.O.(Prov)
A.P.O. 512, M.E.F. Army.

On my own behalf and that of all officers of [illegible] forces under my command, I would like to express to you our deep sense of regret at the unfortunate news of the death of Major FARRISH and to offer you every sympathy in your loss.

As you know Major FARRISH whilst still serving in the British Army was recruited by the predecessor of this force to Middle East and from that day his association with us has been of the closest. In the year I have known him he had become a great personal friend and I formed the highest opinion of his integrity, honesty of purpose and enthusiasm for the work in which he was engaged.

His enthusiasm for our joint work in the Balkans has been great and his cheerfulness and energy an example to all officers who have had the honour of working with him. The last Mission on which he unfortunately lost his life, together with a number of Officers and other ranks was probably the most important of the many which he has performed in the last 12 months. His loss at this critical time will be hard to replace.

I would ask you on behalf of all officers of this force to convey our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

/s/ Harcourt
Lt Col
(HARCOURT)
Comd. Force 399.

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[redacted]
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROVISIONAL)
APO 534, U.S. ARMY

FILE:

DATE: 5 October 1944

SUBJECT:

Fill in each column, initial action, and draw a line across the sheet just below initials. Number each memo consecutively in first column. Use entire width of sheet for long memos.

No.	From	To	Date	
1.	Colonel Glavin	General Donovan		The attached is forwarded for your information.

E.J.P.GLAVIN

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PERSONAL.

SCM Liaison Staff,
AFHQ.

REF: C/SM/373.

3 October 1944.

Dear Glavin

I have been meaning to write to you for some time to offer my condolences on the great loss OSS have suffered in the death of FARISH.

I was most distressed to hear about the accident. I only met FARISH once, I think, but he had built himself up a most excellent reputation, and he will be sadly missed. Such is the fortune of war that so many of the best seem to be taken.

Yours sincerely
W Stanier

W.A.M. STANIER, Maj.Gen.
Comd., SCM.

Colonel E.J.F. GLAVIN,
2677 Regt OSS,
C/o APO 534,
U.S. Army.

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[redacted]
[redacted] (Provisional)
APO 916 [redacted]

5 October 1945

My dear General:

In who gave of you to send me your kind note in regard to my lack of Turish. I have passed it on to General Donovan who we know will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

RICHARD J. F. CLAVIN
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

Major General W. A. M. Burrell
Comd. SCU

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GIC SERVICES

SECRET

GIC SERVICES

DISTRIBUTION

(FOR INFORMATION)

ADMINISTRATOR, [illegible], COMMUNICATIONS, SI, X-2

RECEIVED IN CODE OR CIPHER

SECRET

...o Donovan. Re your #3031.

...ocration papers in process. Also taking ...wards for others in rescue work as well as other ... of our activity. We are doing best we can to catch ...up on this obligation to our personnel long delayed because we couldn't spare personnel to handle details involved.

SECRET

TOR: 10/5/44 3:30 PM

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DATE [illegible]

FROM [illegible]

TO OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DISTRIBUTION

(FOR ACTION) (FOR INFORMATION)

HOFFMAN DIRECTOR,

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16 57984-1

RECEIVED IN CODE OR CIPHER

#1464. Hoffmann. [illegible] #462. [illegible]
Caserta, #475 [illegible]

[illegible]
Parish AUS, O-884213 [illegible]
send you the official report by [illegible].

FILE COPY

TOR: 9/11/44 10:58 PM

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: 10 April 1944.

TO: The Director, OSS.

FROM: Colonel E. P. Connely,
Chief, Personnel Procurement Branch.

SUBJECT: Promotion of Major Lynn Farrish.

1. Major Farrish has been doing some very excellent work in the Balkans, and is the only American in Marshall Tito's headquarters. In order not to have him too far outranked, the Cairo office has brevited him as a lieutenant colonel while he is on duty in Yugoslavia. I pointed out to Colonel West that this was a dangerous practice, and that OSS, and he, might get in trouble because it is not customary in the American Army to make spot promotions of this type. Of course, he does not draw the pay of a lieutenant colonel, but I think it would be much better to have the time limit waived and actually make him a lieutenant colonel than to resort to subterfuge.

2. Even as a lieutenant colonel, Farrish is badly outranked by the British and Russians. The Russians have a lieutenant general on duty with Marshall Tito.

3. In view of the fact that Farrish is constantly risking his life in parachute jumps into the Balkans and in dangerous missions which involve the recapture, release, and escort of American aviators who have been shot down in the Balkans, it seems to me that the waiver of the usual time in grade rule is justified. In any event, I feel it my duty to bring this matter to your attention, as I think it is a practice that should be known to the front office. It is not the only case of breviting officers one rank higher when they jump into Yugoslavia. The same has happened with Major Bell, Captain Smith, and, I think, one or two others.

OSS in Greece why -

Brevet through British channels

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The Director, OSS.

10 April 1945

Colonel R. H. Smith,
Chief, Personnel Procurement Branch,
Organization & Training Division.

1. Major Donald has been doing some very excellent work in the Training and Operations Sections and has been recommended for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. He is a Lieutenant Colonel while he is on duty in [illegible]. I pointed out to Colonel Hall that this was a temporary [illegible] and, although grade is desirable because it is [illegible] for the American Army to make quick promotions of this [illegible]. He does not draw the pay of a Lieutenant Colonel, but I think it would be much better to have the time limit waived and officially make him a Lieutenant Colonel than to create an [illegible].

2. Even as a Lieutenant Colonel, Donald is badly underpaid by the British and Canadians. The Russians have a Lieutenant General on duty with Marshall Tito.

3. In view of the fact that Donald is constantly risking his life in parachute drops into the Balkans and in dangerous adventures which involve the evacuation, rescue, and escort of American officers who have been shot down in the Balkans, it seems to me that the [illegible] of the grade which he would be justified. In any event, I feel it my duty to bring this matter to your attention, as I think it is a procedure that should be taken up from above. It is not the only case of breathing officers who rank higher than they [illegible] Brigadier. The case has happened with higher rank, Captain to [illegible], and, I think, one or two others.

D. P. C.

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12,145

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS and HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
2324 F STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

7 September 1945

SUBJECT: Federal Income Taxes of Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Fairbairn

TO: Major General William J. Donovan
Office of the Director, Office of Strategic Services

1. Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Fairbairn has informed me that you desired to be advised of the status of the Colonel's claim for refund. In view of the Colonel's prospective return to England, I attempted to find out the status of these refund claims filed on 12 April 1945 with the Collector of Internal Revenue at Baltimore, Maryland. An official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue advises that no action can be expected for several months, and no indication of whether favorable action can be expected was indicated.

2. The Colonel has filed amended income tax returns for the taxable years 1942 - 1944, claiming refunds due upon the ground that he erroneously included the money received from the Office of Strategic Services. The elimination of this amount is premised upon an exclusion (Section 116 (h) of Int. Rev. Code) granted to an accredited representative of a foreign government for compensation for official services provided that such foreign government grants a similar exclusion to United States employees. The second ground for the refunds is that Colonel Fairbairn was a resident alien and not a non-resident alien. (Section 29.211-1 Treasury Regulation 111)

3. On the basis of your letter of 4 April 1945 to the Secretary of State he has issued to the Secretary of the Treasury a certificate, a copy of which is attached to this letter, that England grants a similar exemption to United States employees and officials. The unique facts surrounding payment of the Colonel's compensation may give rise to a doubt as to the application of the Section 116 (h) exclusion.

4. While the question as to the residence or non-residence in the United States of Colonel Fairbairn does not affect the determination with respect to the exclusion under Section 116 (h), it does affect the calculation of the tax imposed upon the funds received by the Colonel from the Office of Strategic Services if Section 116 (h) is held not to apply.

VICTOR E. MUSSO
Captain, JAGC
Legal Assistance Officer

Incl:
Ltr Apr 9, 1945 (cpy)

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

7 September 1945

SUBJECT: Federal Income Taxes of Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Fairbairn

TO: Major General William J. Donovan
Office of the Director, Office of Strategic Services

1. Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Fairbairn has informed this office that he desired to be advised of the status of the Colonel's prospective claim for refunds. In view of the Colonel's prospective return to England, I attempted to find out the status of these claims. I ascertained that the Collector of Internal Revenue at Baltimore, Maryland. An official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue advised that no action can be expected from the several months, and no indication of whether favorable action can be expected was indicated.

2. The Colonel has filed amended income tax returns for the taxable years 1942 - 1944, claiming refunds due upon the ground that he erroneously included the money received from the Office of Strategic Services. The elimination of this income is premised upon an exclusion (Section 116 (b) of Int. Rev. Code) granted to an accredited representative of a foreign government for compensation for official services provided that such foreign government grants a similar exclusion to United States employees. The second ground for the refunds is that Colonel Fairbairn was a resident alien and not a non-resident alien. (Section 211 (a) Treasury Regulation 111)

3. On the basis of your letter of 4 April 1945 to the Secretary of State he has issued to the Secretary of the Treasury a certificate, a copy of which is attached to this letter, that England grants a similar exemption to United States employees and officials. The weight given surrounding circumstances may give rise to a doubt as to the applicability (favorably) of compensation may give rise to a doubt as to the application of the Section 116 (b) exclusions.

4. While the question as to the residence or non-residence in the United States of Colonel Fairbairn does not affect the determination with respect to the exclusion under Section 116 (b), it does affect the exclusion of the tax imposed upon the funds received by the Colonel from the Office of Strategic Services if Section 116 (b) is held not to apply.

VICTOR H. KRULAK
Captain, USMC
Legal Assistance Officer

Encl:
LAO Apo 0, 1945 (cpy)

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Address official communications to
The Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
FR -

April 9, 1945

Certification under Section 116 (h) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury and refers to the conversation by telephone on April 9, 1945 between Mr. Foss of the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the Treasury Department and an officer of the Division of Protocol of the Department of State concerning the exemption from Federal income tax on the official compensation for services rendered in the United States of Lieutenant Colonel William E. Fairbairn, who is an officer in the British Army.

As a matter of convenience the Government of the United States, through the Office of Strategic Services, has assumed the payment of the compensation received by Lieutenant Colonel Fairbairn pursuant to an arrangement with the British War Office. However, he is regarded by the Office of Strategic Services as continuing in the service of the British Government as may be seen from the attached certified copy of a letter from the Director of the Office of Strategic Services to the Secretary of State.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 116 (h) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, certification is made that the British Government grants an equivalent exemption to the employees of the Government of the United States performing services in Great Britain and that the character of services performed by employees of this Government in foreign countries is similar to the character of services performed in the United States

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by Lieutenant Colonel Fairbairn. The pertinent provisions of the British statutes under which such an exemption will be granted in Great Britain are quoted in a letter from the Legal Adviser of the British Embassy to an officer of the Department, a copy of which is also enclosed.

Enclosures:

Copy of letter from the
Director of the Office of
Strategic Services, April 4, 1945;
Copy of letter from British Embassy,
March 29, 1945.

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Form 88 (Revised)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DATE 6 APRIL 45 RECD 1927 6 APR 45

TO USTRAVIC, LONDON

FROM OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES OUT-8956

DISTRIBUTION

(CONFIRMATION TO ORIGINATOR) Fairbairn, Maj. W. E. 12.1.45 DIRECTOR

FOR INFORMATION SECRETARIAT, FIELD SECTION, SCHOOLS AND TRAINING

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—97609-1

TRANSMITTED IN CODE OR CIPHER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

417661. TO FORGAN FROM 109.

1. LT. COLONEL WILLIAM E. FAIRBAIRN, BRITISH ARMY, ON LOAN OSS FROM THE BRITISH WAR OFFICE SINCE APRIL 1942, HAS DONE SUPERIOR WORK IN TRAINING OUR OFFICERS AND MEN IN CLOSE COMBAT FIGHTING AND IN USE OF SMALL FIRE ARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS.

2. SINCERELY BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED RETURN TO ENGLAND FOR DUTY WITH OSS THERE. IN VIEW OF CAPTAIN SHINE'S REQUEST FOR HIM, BELIEVE FAIRBAIRN'S SERVICES CAN BE PROFITABLY UTILIZED IN YOUR THEATER. S&T INFORMS ME FAIRBAIRN AVAILABLE I MAY. PLEASE SECURE TCA AND APR.

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE COPY

WJD
INITIALS OF "RELEASING" OFFICER

TOD: 1927 6 APR 45

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COPY OR REPRODUCE THIS CABLE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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SECRET

6 April 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Award of the Legion of Merit for Lt. Colonel William E. Fairbairn

TO : The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington, D. C.

1. It is recommended that the Legion of Merit, in appropriate degree, be awarded to Lt. Col. William E. Fairbairn for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services during the period in which he was loaned to the Office of Strategic Services by the British Security Coordination, British War Office.

2. The period covered by this recommendation extends from April 1942 to April 1945.

3. Upon his assignment to the Office of Strategic Services Lt. Col. Fairbairn was placed on duty with the Schools and Training Branch. In general his duties included the supervision of specialized training in weapons and close combat. During his service with the Schools and Training Branch he made a substantial contribution to the success of this organization not only by the instruction which he gave in these subjects but also by the development of techniques of training, the production of training films and the invention of special weapons especially useful in OSS operations. In addition, he performed similar duties while on authorized detached service at other installations. Detailed explanations of Lt. Col. Fairbairn's service in connection with the foregoing achievements will be set forth below.

A. BACKGROUND

Lt. Col. Fairbairn possessed unusual qualifications for his assignment with OSS. As Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Shanghai Municipal Police Command from 1925 to 1940, he was called upon to handle 2000 riot calls of all types and descriptions, including shooting

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affrays, many of which were against armed seamen and kidnapping. In addition, the squads under his supervision were responsible for the investigation and dismantling of vice rings and narcotic smugglers. During the period 1946-49 he served as an instructor in close combat fighting with commando units of the British Army.

B. [redacted]

The art of close contact fighting developed and taught by Lt. Col. Fairbairn includes unarmed combat, fighting with knives, firing of a pistol under every conceivable condition and at every possible position likely to be met in actual combat during day or night and hip-shooting with the tommy-gun, carbine and rifle. These combat fighting exploits so-called "gutter" methods of offensive and defensive tactics. Instruction in such tactics is essential to overcoming the natural reluctance and aversion of the typical American soldier (and the British soldier) to unfair and unethical methods of fighting in which acts of artifice, force, venemouse and abuse are of major importance and in which all concepts of fair play and good sportsmanship must be eliminated.

Reports from overseas theaters indicate that irrespective of whether or not personnel who have undergone this type of training make use of it in the missions to which they are assigned, the mere fact that they have been so trained and have been imbued with the confidence which comes from it, greatly increases their efficiency and morale in other types of combat operations.

C. [redacted]

In the early months of his assignment to the Office of Strategic Services, Lt. Col. Fairbairn trained agents in the art of close contact fighting. Until the termination of activities at these areas it was also his duty to supervise the allocation of all small arms.

In May 1943 he was appointed chief instructor at one of the principal training areas and from August to November 1943 he also gave instruction to groups in training at other OSS areas.

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Lt. Col. Fairbairn has served as a member of the panel lectures on China at Georgetown University and at an OSS training area. He gave instruction in such varied subjects as the characterization of the Chinese, their reaction to praise, reward and censure, their adaptability and physical capabilities, methods of survival off the land, employment, controlling and dress checking of Chinese agents, climatic conditions, matters of sex, sanitary precautions and food.

During his tour of duty with the Office of Strategic Services, practically all personnel recruited in the United States have taken the course of instruction given by Lt. Col. Fairbairn and many of his students have become qualified to undertake instructional duties in close contact fighting all over the world.

During the past several weeks Lt. Col. Fairbairn has been conducting at an OSS training area a two-day course in close contact fighting for Naval Officers of the Bureau of Aeronautics. A total of seven classes have been completed to date and it is understood that commitments have been made for the training of four additional classes in the future.

In addition to instruction given in regular courses he has been available for consultation and conferences to those embarking on missions overseas. Because of his knowledge of the Orient and Europe together with his experience with the underground in these areas, he has been able to make many invaluable suggestions.

B. [redacted] RANGES

In order to create simulated combat conditions for training purposes, Lt. Col. Fairbairn planned and supervised the erection of indoor mystery ranges at the OSS training areas. These ranges were originally developed in connection with police work in China and were first used in military training in the courses given to the British Commandos and the British Army. In the mystery ranges a simulation is effected of actual battle noises and conditions under which shooting affrays occur, especially in house to house combat. The training included methods of entering closed and locked doors, methods of shooting open such

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doors, methods of using trap doors, methods of room fighting and firing on moving and possibly surrounded targets. Under varying degrees of light, darkness and shadows, plus the introduction of sound effects, moving objects and various alarming surprises, an opportunity is afforded to test the moral fibre of the student and to develop his courage and capacity for self control.

In addition to the mystery Ranges, infiltration and pistol ranges were built under Lt. Col. Fairbairn's supervision.

E. TRAINING FILMS

In order to establish documentary and pictorial film of close contact fighting and judo technique he opened under the direction of Commander John Ford to produce the first training film made by the Office of Strategic Services. Subsequently he took part in the filming of three "number" fighting training films, depicting the art of close combat fighting with the knife, pistol, tommy gun, carbine and unarmed fighting (judo).

F. DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL WEAPONS

In conjunction with the training of military personnel assigned to the Office of Strategic Services he has developed several weapons used especially for close contact fighting. These weapons are known as the Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife, the Comb Spring baton, the spike necklace, the Pair Sword and the Fairbairn-Hillerdan fighting knife.

G. DETACHED SERVICE

Since his association with the Office of Strategic Services Lt. Col. Fairbairn has been temporarily loaned to several installations for the purpose of instructing in the subjects described above. In September of 1942 he was loaned to the Canadian Army and in October 1942 he was on temporary loan to the Tank Destroyer Command at Camp Hood, Texas and with the United States Marine Corps at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. During this period of approximately two months he trained over ninety instructors and 1600 students.

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4. This recommendation is based on my personal knowledge, the records of this office and the attached letter of commendation by the Executive Officer and former Acting Chief of the Schools and Training Branch of this office.

5. It is believed that the accomplishments and services of Lt. Col. Fairbairn as set forth above have been of such an outstanding character as to more than justify the award of the decoration for which this recommendation is made.

6. The entire military service of Lt. Col. William Fairbairn to the Government of the United States has been honorable.

William J. Donovan
Director

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6 April 1944

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Re: Lt. Col. William R. Fairbairn (F/Libya)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is requested that in connection with paragraph 120 (b), Title 18, United States Code, a certificate issue to the International Exchange Department that Lt. Col. William R. Fairbairn, British Army, is a responsible representative of the British Government on duty in the United States. Such a certificate is necessary in order that he be permitted to exclude for income tax purposes compensation received from the United States Government while he is on duty here.

Lt. Col. Fairbairn has been in the United States since April 1942 when he was loaned by the British War Office to this agency. He has at no time been an employee of this agency and has retained the status of a British Army officer on active duty. The payment of his salary by this agency was undertaken in October 1942 pursuant to an arrangement with the British War Office. Lt. Col. Fairbairn was not a party to this arrangement and it was not intended to affect his status as an employee or responsible representative of a foreign government. While his services for duty here under the above arrangement are substantial, payment to this agency by the British Government.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Director

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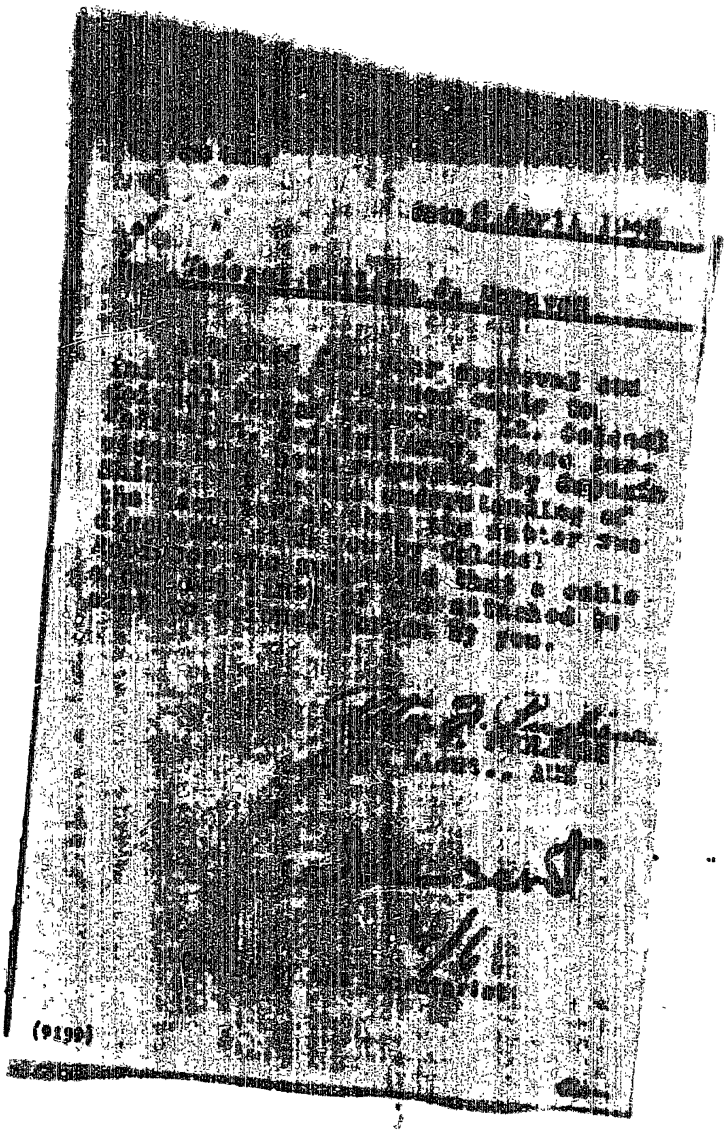

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2 April 1948

Files

Spoke to Major Miller, in the absence of Col Robinson: Requested

1. S+T get in touch with Major Ball re proposed memorandum
2. S+T draft appropriate cable for WDC's initial
3. S+T draft appropriate recommendation for Lt. Col. Fairbairn's record.

Latter 2 items to be submitted to me for general check + forwarded to WDC for signature

PFP.

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Date 20 Mar '45

Lt. Pugliese

Pete:

Will you look into this at once and advise.

RT

Office of the Executive Officer

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(Security)

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Schools and Training Branch
2324 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

26 March 1945

SUBJECT: Lt. Col. William E. Fairbairn

TO: The Director, OSS

1. There is enclosed herewith a report dated 23 March 1945, submitted by Lt. Col. William E. Fairbairn, British Army, covering his activities with OSS. It is our understanding that this report is being submitted at your request.

2. As Chief, Schools and Training Branch, I would like to take this opportunity to add a word of praise for Lt. Col. Fairbairn. During all of his term of duty with this branch, he has demonstrated an intense interest in his work and because of his pleasant personality and exceptional ability, he has obtained results with his students which we believe few men could obtain. As the only officer of the British Army being used as an instructor in our schools, and as a senior officer both in point of grade and in years of experience, he has had to exercise a great deal of tact in his association with the mixture of students who attended his classes. This he has done unfailingly.

3. You will recall that I spoke to you a short time ago concerning the matter of returning Lt. Col. Fairbairn to England and that you stated that this should be done. I believe that in another 30 to 60 days he can be spared here and it would seem suitable that the arrangements for his transfer to ETO should be started at this time. We recently had an inquiry from the Chief, S&T/ETO, as to whether or not Lt. Col. Fairbairn could be made available to the Training Branch there for the purpose of instructing SO personnel in that theater. If this need for his services is still valid and is in accord with your wishes, it is suggested that a cable be sent to Colonel Forgan with instructions that he arrange for a TCA and APR. Because of the tight personnel situation in ETO, it is also suggested that this cable be sent by you in order to avoid the necessity for arguing back and forth across the Atlantic as to whether or not a slot for Lt. Col. Fairbairn is available in ETO. If this does not agree with your wishes, it is requested that we be informed as to how you do wish this matter handled.

4. There is one other matter which I would like to bring to your attention. Lt. Col. Fairbairn has nothing to show for his three years of service with OSS and, so far as the British Army is concerned, he has been "lost in action" for that period of time. In all fairness to him,

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I think that OSS should reward him by some form of citation for his service to this country and that this should be made a matter of official record so that his superiors will know that his services have been real and have been appreciated.

H. L. ROBINSON
Colonel, FA
Chief, Schools and Training

1 Incl.

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16 March 1945

Lt. Col. William B. Fairbairn

The Director, OSS

1. There is enclosed herewith a report dated 29 March 1945, submitted by Lt. Col. William B. Fairbairn, British Army, covering his activities with OSS. It is our understanding that this report is being submitted at your request.

2. As Chief, Schools and Training Branch, I would like to take this opportunity to add a word of praise for Lt. Col. Fairbairn. During all of his term of duty with this branch, he has demonstrated an intense interest in his work and because of his pleasant personality and accomplished ability, he has obtained results with his students which we believe few men could obtain. As the only officer of the British Army being used as an instructor in our schools, and as a senior officer both in point of grade and in years of experience, he has had to exercise a great deal of tact in his association with the minors of students who attended his classes. This he has done unfailingly.

3. You will recall that I spoke to you a short time ago concerning the matter of returning Lt. Col. Fairbairn to England and that you stated that this should be done. I believe that in another 30 to 60 days he can be spared here and it would seem suitable that the arrangements for his transfer to ETO should be started at this time. We recently had an inquiry from the Chief, SAF/ETO, as to whether or not Lt. Col. Fairbairn could be made available to the Training Branch there for the purpose of instructing SO personnel in that theater. If this need for his services is still valid and is in accord with your wishes, it is suggested that a cable be sent to Colonel Furman with instructions that he proceed for a visit only. Because of the tight personnel situation in ETO, it is also suggested that this cable be sent by you in order to expedite the necessity for carrying back and forth across the Atlantic on the matter of not a visit for Lt. Col. Fairbairn is available in ETO. If this does not agree with your wishes, it is requested that we be informed so that we may deal with this matter handled.

4. There is one other matter which I would like to bring to your attention. Lt. Col. Fairbairn has willing to give for his three years of service with OSS and, so far as the British Army is concerned, he has been kept in London for that period of time. In all fairness to him,

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H. L. ROBINSON
Colonel, FA
Chief, Schools and Training

1 Incl.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

5 March 1945

SUBJECT: Service Resume' of Lt. Col. William E. Fairbairn.

TO : The Director, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C.

1. Pursuant to your recent request, I have the pleasure to submitted herewith a brief summary of my duties during the period in which I have been on duty with the Office of Strategic Services from April 1942 to April 1945. During this period I was on loan from the British War Office, while maintaining my status on the General List of the British Army.

2. Because of previous experience in the training of the British Commandos and service in the training and [illegible] well known Riot Squads of the Shanghai Municipal Police approximately 1925-40, it was expected that my [illegible] contact or hand to hand fighting would be of value in the training of personnel in this agency.

3. Upon my joining the Office of Strategic Services, I was placed on duty with the Schools and Training Branch. In general my duties encompassed the supervision of specialized training in weapons and in close combat, the techniques of which are more fully explained in the attached resume of services. In addition, duties performed while on authorized [illegible] at other installations are included in the aforementioned resume.

4. The arrangement under which I was loaned by the British War Office and under which the Office of Strategic Services took the direct payment of my salary was resulted in [illegible] trative or other problems with the exception of the question concerning my status for United States income tax purposes. As explained to you recently I am receiving assistance [illegible] and anticipate that it will be satisfactorily adjusted in the near future.

5. In conclusion, it has been a distinct privilege and pleasure in being associated, during the past three years, with an organization having a reputation such as that held by the Office of Strategic Services and I sincerely feel that any [illegible] I may have been able to contribute toward its activities and the establishment of that reputation has been well worth while.

1 Incl. (Resume' of Service)

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W. E. Fairbairn

WILLIAM E. FAIRBAIRN
Lt. Col., British Army.

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RESUME OF SERVICE

of

LT. COL. WILLIAM E. FAIRBAIRN

WITH THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES APO 444 C/O PM

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND:

Prior to my association with the armed forces of Great Britain and the United States I served as Assistant Chief Inspector in Command of the Riot Squads of the Shanghai Municipal Police Force Command from 1925 to 1940. During this period, I personally handled over 2000 riot calls of all types and degrees of violence, including shooting affrays, many of which were with armed bandits, robbers and kidnappers. In addition, the squads were responsible for the investigation and tracking down of white slavers and narcotic smugglers.

As stated in the foregoing letter of transmittal, I was loaned to the Office of Strategic Services on loan from the British Security Co-ordination Office, British War Office, to act [illegible] in the capacity of an expert in close-contact fighting. This includes fighting with the art of close-contact fighting, with and without weapons, the firing of a pistol under every conceivable condition [illegible] every possible position likely to be met in actual combat [illegible] night; hip-shooting with the tommy-gun carbine and rifle.

INTRODUCTION OF CLOSE-CONTACT [illegible]:

In initiating training in close-contact [illegible] methods in offensive and defensive tactics [illegible] personnel assigned for such training. This was [illegible] overcoming the natural reluctance and aversion [illegible] American soldier (and the British soldier) to [illegible] methods of fighting in which acts of artifice, [illegible] and shock are of major importance and in which all [illegible] the concepts of fair play and good sportsmanship [illegible].

With the building up of a natural confidence [illegible] of each man to perform duties of this nature, [illegible] began to show results and their efficiency continued [illegible]. From reports from overseas theaters, it has been noted [illegible] spective of whether or not personnel who have undergone [illegible] type of training make use of it in the [illegible] are assigned, the mere fact that they have been [illegible] have been imbued with the confidence which comes from it, [illegible] efficiency in other types of combat operations, and their [illegible].

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is greatly increased.

SERVICE

TRAIN #1

In the early months of my assignment to the Office of Strategic Services, all members of the staff in Area F were trained as assistant instructors in the art of [illegible] fighting and during this period it was my duty to supervise the training in close-contact fighting of all instructors and students at Areas A, C, D, E, F, and MTU 11. [illegible] mination of activities at Areas A, [illegible] duty to supervise the allocation of all [illegible] areas as well as to the other operating areas.

In May 1943 I was appointed chief instructor at Area F upon the formation of the first [illegible] group at Area F. In November 1943 I undertook the training of special groups in close-contact fighting at Area E and lectured at all weapons courses held at MTU 11 and Area F.

Since the beginning of 1944 I have served as a member of the panel lectures on China at secretary conferences at Area F, covering such subjects as: the character [illegible] Chinese; their reaction to praise, reward and censure; their reliability and physical capabilities; [illegible] off of the land; employment controlling and [illegible] Chinese agents; climatic conditions; [illegible] precautions and food.

During my tour of duty with the Office of Strategic Services, practically all personnel recruited in this area have taken the course of instruction and many have assisted in instructional duties in close-contact fighting at Area F.

During the past several weeks I have been conducting at Area F two day training courses in close-contact fighting for naval officers of the Bureau of Aeronautics. A total of seven classes have been completed to date and it is understood that commitments have been made for the training of four additional classes in the future.

In addition to instruction given in regular courses I have been available for consultations and conferences to those embarking on missions. Because of my knowledge of the Orient and Europe, together with my experience with the undercover in those areas, I have been able to make suggestions.

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MYSTERY RANGES:

In order to create simulated combat conditions for training purposes, I planned and supervised the creation of indoor mystery ranges at Areas B^2, A^3, E, and F. These ranges were originally developed by me in connection with police work in China and were first used in military training in the courses given to the British Commandos and the British Army. In the Mystery Ranges a simulation was effected of actual battle noises, conditions under which shooting affrays occur, especially in house to house combat. The training included methods of entering closed and locked doors, methods of bursting open such doors, methods of using trap doors, methods of roof top fighting and firing on moving and possibly concealed targets. Under varying degrees of light, darkness and shadows, plus the introduction of sound effects, moving objects and various alarming surprises, an opportunity is afforded to test the moral fibre of the student and to develop his courage and capacity for self control.

In addition to the Mystery Ranges, infiltration ranges were built under my supervision at Area F and pistol ranges at Areas A^3 and A^4.

TRAINING FILMS:

In order to establish documentary and historical films of close-contact fighting and judo technique, it was my pleasure to work under the direction of Commander Ford in the first training film made by the Office of Strategic Services. Subsequently I took part in the filming of three "Gutter" fighting training films, depicting the art of close combat fighting with the knife, pistol, tommy gun, carbine and unarmed fighting (judo).

DETACHED SERVICE:

Since my association with the Office of Strategic Services I have been temporarily loaned to several installations for the purpose of instructing in the above mentioned subjects. In September of 1942 I was loaned to the Canadian Army and in October 1942 I was on temporary loan to the Tank Destroyer Command at Camp Hood, Texas, and with the United States Marine Corps at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. During this period of approximately two months, I trained over ninety instructors and 1030 students.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL WEAPONS:

In conjunction with the training of military personnel in the Office of Strategic Services, I have established the use

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of several weapons used especially for close-combat fighting. Some of those weapons are known as: The Fairbairn Sykes fighting knife, the Cosh Spring baton, the spike necklace, the fair sweet and the Fairbairn Millerson fighting knife.

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OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DATE 10 MARCH 1945

FROM MACAS, CALCUTTA

TO OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

IN: 6210

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DIRECTOR ✓ Fairbairn 10 Mar

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attached

06117. HEPPNER TO 109. REFERENCE YOUR #2917* (OUT: 5706). TO CHUNGKING. #2627. CALCUTTA-CHUNGKING.

I DID NOT REQUEST COL. FAIRBAIRN AND I DO NOT WANT ANY BRITISH OFFICERS ATTACHED TO OUR MISSION. DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS QUESTION AROSE.

To Col Fairbairn

Be advised

Executive Officer

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FOR: 1433 10 MAR 45

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Phoned to Col Fairbairn 3 p.m. 10 Mar 45

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Form 62 (Revised)

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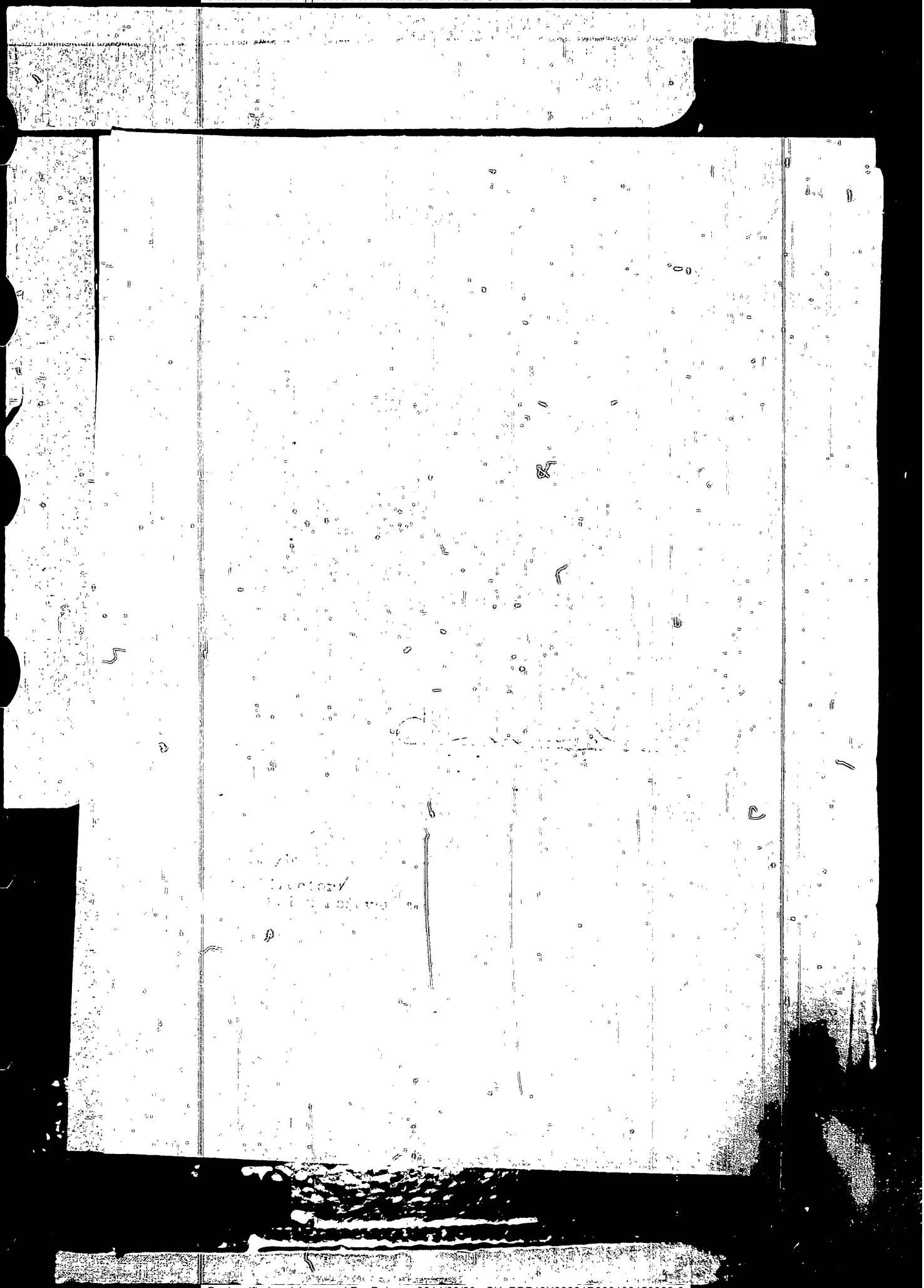

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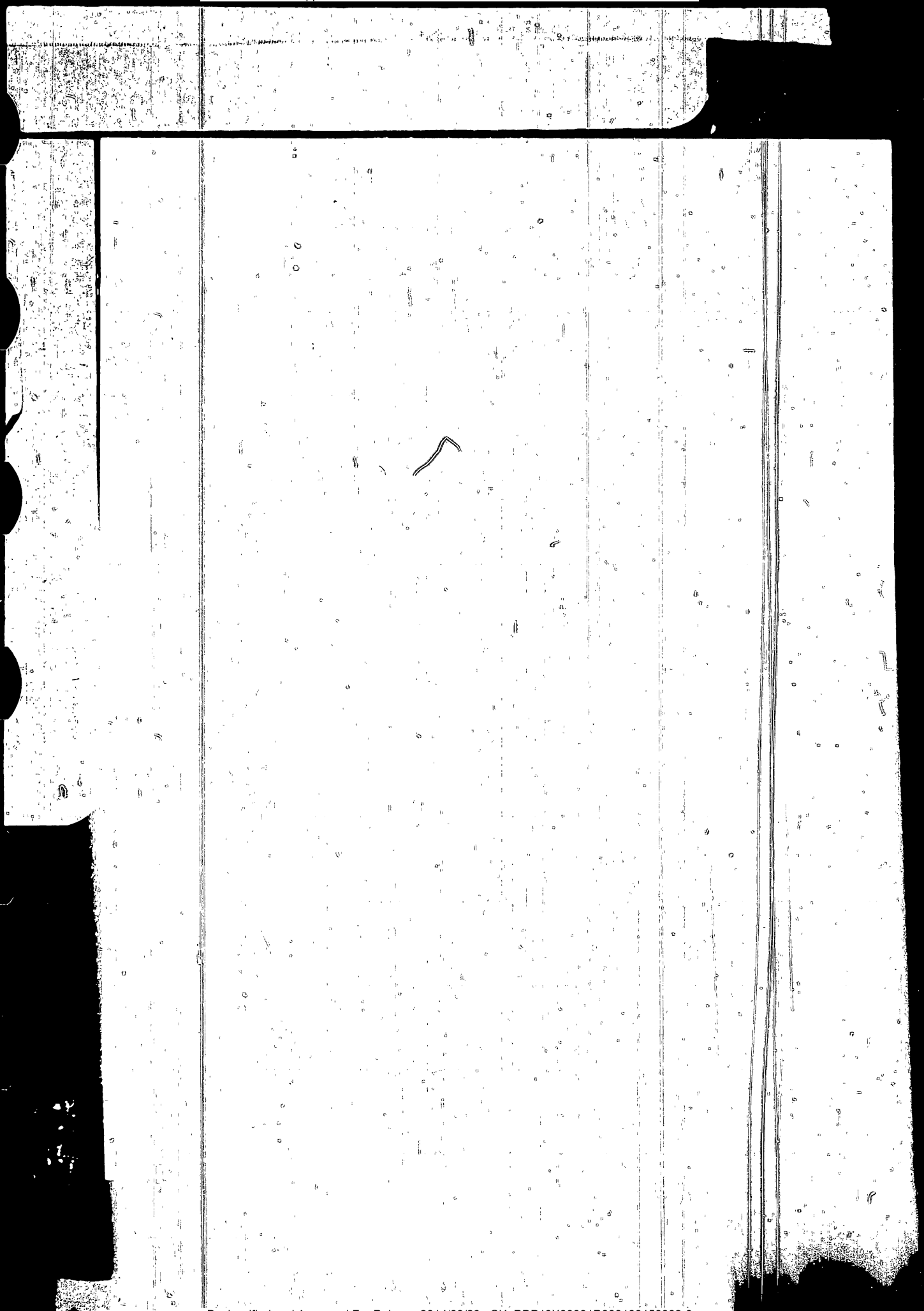

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